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Author and original designer of the OneLife Basic Nutrition System (BNS-2D): Carlos Daniel Borrego Romero.

ANNEX C – Comparative Positioning and Research Agenda for the OneLife Basic Nutrition System (BNS-2D)

C.1. Comparative positioning of OneLife

C.1.1. OneLife is designed as a daily nutritional core for vulnerable populations that complements, rather than replaces, existing therapeutic, supplementary and fortification interventions.

C.1.2. It seeks to provide a unifying nutritional standard and operational framework that can align multiple products and programmes within coherent national and regional strategies.

Table C.1. OneLife and selected existing nutrition models (high-level overview)

Dimension	OneLife BNS-2D	RUTF / RUSF (e.g., Plumpy'nut)	Fortified blended foods (e.g., CSB+, Super Cereal)	Large-scale food fortification
Primary purpose	Daily nutritional core for vulnerable populations	Therapeutic treatment of acute malnutrition	Supplement to improve diet quality	Correction of population-wide micronutrient deficiencies
Target groups	Broad: food-insecure populations, crisis settings, schools, social protection	Children with moderate or severe acute malnutrition	Young children, pregnant and lactating women, vulnerable groups	General population consuming fortified staples
Product forms	Powder for reconstitution plus nutritionally equivalent bar	Ready-to-use lipid-based paste	Precooked cereal–legume blends for porridges	Fortified flours, salt, oils, rice and other staples
Nutritional scope	Full daily macronutrients plus 100%	Very high energy and nutrient density for	Energy, protein and micronutrients,	Micronutrients added to existing

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Dimension	OneLife BNS-2D	RUTF / RUSF (e.g., Plumpy'nut)	Fortified blended foods (e.g., CSB+, Super Cereal)	Large-scale food fortification
	essential micronutrients in two doses	catch-up growth	usually as partial ration	staple foods
Geographic logic	Continental formulation framework using regionally available crops	Global formulation with local and offshore production	Global product specifications with limited regional variants	Country-specific, based on commonly consumed staples
Role in programmes	Structural backbone for multiple programmes (school feeding, social protection, humanitarian assistance)	Clinical and therapeutic component in health and nutrition services	Component of targeted feeding and safety-net programmes	Long-term public health measure within national policy
Governance and documentation	Integrated standard with annexes on benefits, preparation, production and research agenda	Clinical and technical guidelines, often product-specific	Product and manufacturing specifications, plus operational guidance by agencies	National regulations and international guidance on fortification

C.2. Research and evaluation agenda

To consolidate and continuously strengthen the evidence base for the OneLife Basic Nutrition System (BNS-2D), the following priority areas for research and evaluation are proposed.

C.2.1. Clinical safety and effectiveness

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Objective: To confirm safety, tolerability and nutritional effectiveness of OneLife across key population groups.

Key activities:

- Phase I/II studies on digestibility, gastrointestinal tolerance and basic safety in adults and older children.
- Effectiveness studies in priority groups (for example, school-age children, pregnant and lactating women, and high-labour populations) focusing on anthropometry, micronutrient status and relevant functional outcomes.
- Observational studies of long-term use in protracted crises and other settings of chronic vulnerability.

C.2.2. Comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

Objective: To position OneLife relative to existing supplementary foods and programme configurations under real-world conditions.

Key activities:

- Programme-based comparisons of OneLife and standard packages (for example, fortified blended foods plus local diets) on nutritional outcomes, adherence, coverage and programme performance.
- Cost-effectiveness analyses that consider procurement, logistics, preparation time and health outcomes.
- Scenario modelling of national and subnational safety-net designs with and without OneLife as a central component.

C.2.3. Operational performance and acceptability

Objective: To assess feasibility, acceptability and fidelity of implementation in diverse operational contexts.

Key activities:

- Mixed-methods studies on acceptability of powder and bar presentations among different age groups and cultural settings.
- Evaluations of adherence to Annex B protocols in schools, community centres, health facilities and humanitarian operations.
- Analysis of reported safety and acceptability events (including intolerance, suspected allergy and systematic refusal) in order to refine formulations and operational guidance.

C.2.4. Impact on food systems and local markets

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Objective: To ensure that OneLife strengthens, and does not inadvertently undermine, local food systems and livelihoods.

Key activities:

- Assessments of how demand for OneLife raw materials affects smallholder farmers, local processors and traders.
- Studies on potential market displacement effects and mitigation strategies, including local procurement models and productive safety-net approaches.
- Evaluation of environmental and climate-related impacts associated with different continental formulations and sourcing patterns.

C.2.5. Governance, equity and multi-stakeholder collaboration

Objective: To document how governance arrangements influence outcomes, equity and sustainability.

Key activities:

- Case studies of public–private–civil society partnerships implementing OneLife, with particular attention to transparency, accountability and management of conflicts of interest.
- Equity-focused analyses to determine whether the most vulnerable population groups are effectively reached and benefit equitably from OneLife-based programmes.
- Development and testing of monitoring and evaluation frameworks that integrate OneLife indicators into national information systems and global reporting mechanisms.

C.2.6. Review and continuous improvement

Findings from the research and evaluation activities outlined above should be periodically reviewed by an independent expert group and used to update the OneLife standard, its annexes and related implementation tools, ensuring that the system remains evidence-based, safe, equitable and aligned with evolving international best practice.

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